

From: Triodes12AX7@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/14/01 4:37pm
Subject: Submittance of comments regarding the DOJ/Microsoft Settlement

The Department of Justice is doing the world no favor by settling with the conditions they have set. Microsoft has been devising ways to bend the conditions to their advantage ever since their creation. Microsoft does not create programs, but rather is a business machine. Microsoft has not sold software since the mid to late 80s, rather they have sold influence. By IBM making a fatal mistake and selling off DOS (they thought no money could be made by selling software at the time, they thought the bucks were in the hardware) Microsoft gained a foothold in the standards of the PC. Through this, they've decided who succeeds and who fails by using their image. Talk to anyone in America, it's very doubtful you will find many who do not know who Microsoft is, and how powerful they are. Through design they try to make the market theirs. By implementing their own "bastardized" standards (ala Java, the Kerberos networking protocol, Microsoft proxy server etc.) they make it so you can only use their products or products approved by them. Back in the day, there was an authentication protocol called CHAP (an open standard was used called CHAP 80) Microsoft in an attempt to seize control of the market implemented a version called "CHAP 81" which was basically the same thing except it involved "handshaking" that would refuse connections to non CHAP 81 servers. In doing so they tried to push their OSes and networking products, but it failed miserably. Microsoft is like the mythical Hydra Hercules fought, this punishment will be like cutting off the heads, and there will merely be more in the places of the ones you cut off.

Aim your attack for the heart of Microsoft instead. Some people say release the source code to Microsoft programs, but that's a punishment that would ultimately lead to their total destruction. Microsoft serves a place in society that is very important, as does Windows. If you want to hurt Microsoft without killing them, force them to release the source code to the version of software that was formerly released or after 3 years of the software being sold in retail (eg Windows ME whereas Windows XP is the current home edition, NT version 4.0 whereas Windows 2000 (NT 5) is the current version, and so on under the GNU Public license. Also allow versions of their software over 8 years old to become part of the public domain. There should also be a strict forbiddance for Microsoft to bundle more than the basic software (e.g. the updated versions of the Windows 95 install, as well as drivers such as DirectX) and they should be forced to put the rest on separate CD(s.) If you have any issues that you desire to regard in this commentary, please email me at the address above. I will be happy to take any of your questions or comments to the best of my ability.

Regards,
Alan H Draconic